

### **Remarks**

Claims 24-26, 29-37 and 40-45 are currently pending. Claims 1-23, 27, 28, 38 and 39 are canceled. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of all canceled claims in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

### ***Amendment to the Specification***

It has come to the attention of the undersigned that the relationship between one pair of applications was not previously indicated in the first sentence of the specification. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the first paragraph of the specification be amended as shown above to indicate that prior application 09/205,258, filed December 4, 1998, is a continuation-in-part of International Application No. PCT/US98/11422, filed June 4, 1998. Applicants note that this amendment does not alter the date of the earliest claim to priority, June 6, 1997.

In accordance with the guidelines stated in the M.P.E.P. at § 714.13(II) regarding entry of amendments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment removes an issue for appeal and requires only a cursory review by the Examiner. Thus, contingent upon grant of the petition filed herewith to accept an unintentionally delayed claim to the benefit of priority under 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3), Applicants respectfully request that the amendment shown above be entered into the present specification.

### Conclusion

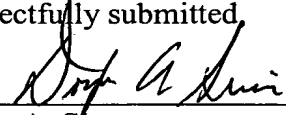
Applicants respectfully request that the above-made remarks be entered and made of record in the file history of the instant application. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below if any further action is by Applicant is required. If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 08-3425.

Dated:

9/20/2005

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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